

A wide-angle photograph of a natural field. The foreground and middle ground are filled with tall, green and brown grasses. Interspersed among the grass are numerous bright yellow wildflowers, likely Black-eyed Susans. In the background, a flat horizon line separates the field from a distant treeline under a pale, overcast sky.

RIM Reserve Easements 101

BWSR Academy 2010

History

RIM Reserve was
established in 1986

Concept was initially
proposed in 1984 by the
'Citizen Commission to
Promote Hunting and
Fishing in MN', established
by Gov. Perpich

Farm crisis in the '80's
helped establish RIM as a
way to not only benefit
wildlife, but to help
financially strapped
farmers

First appropriation in
1986 was for \$10 M

History

Early easements ('86 & '87) were 10 year easements

Highly erodible land was only eligible land type in first years

Many other eligible land types were added by legislation in the late '80s

Permanent Wetland Preserves (PWP) was added in 1991 as part of WCA

History

1994

MN River Citizens' Advisory Comm.
adopts plan to restore the MN River.

Top two recommendations are:

- 1) Restore floodplains and riparian areas,
- 2) Restore wetlands

BWSR allocates 50% of all RIM funds
to easements in the
MN River Watershed

1997

First RIM-WRP partnership
30-year NRCS easement
plus a perpetual RIM
easement

1998

MN River CREP

2005

CREP II in the Red River,
Lower Mississippi,
Missouri/
Des Moines watersheds

2007

RIM-WRP Partnership with NRCS

Reinvest in Minnesota Resources Act

103F.505 PURPOSE AND POLICY.

It is the purpose of sections 103F.505 to 103F.531 to restore certain marginal agricultural land and protect environmentally sensitive areas to enhance soil and water quality, minimize damage to flood-prone areas, sequester carbon, and support native plant, fish, and wildlife habitats. It is state policy to encourage the restoration of wetlands and riparian lands and promote the retirement of marginal, highly erodible land, particularly land adjacent to public waters, drainage systems, wetlands, and locally designated priority waters.

History: *1990 c 391 art 6 s 71; 1992 c 415 s 1; 2009 HF 1231 s 12*

RIM Reserve Funding



\$209,700,000.00 Total funding as of Oct. 2010

\$180.4 M from legislative bond appropriations

\$1.8 M from LCCMR

\$3.0 M from federal NAWCC

\$16 M from LSOHC (2009 and 2010) for RIM-WRP

\$8.5 M from CWL (2009) –
buffers \$6.5M and wellhead
protection \$2.0M

Past Accomplishments ('86 to '07)

Program	# of Easements	Acres
RIM Reserve*	2,071*	62,322*
MN River CREP	2,478	100,000
CREP II	284	7,345
Original RIM-WRP (1997)	117	6,686
Totals	4,950	176,353

* Does not include 852 expired easements (18,600 acres)

Recent Program Activity ('08 to present)

Program	# of easements	acres
RIM-WRP Phase I (2008)	98	9,776
RIM-WRP Phase II (2009)	151	16,217
RIM-WRP (2010)	68	7,505
RRVRI (2009)	48	1,564
SE Flood (2008)	28	728
SE Flood (2009)	17	595
ACUB –Camp Ripley	43	7,753
CWF Buffers (2010)	187	1,503

Total Accomplishments





Past and
recent
activity

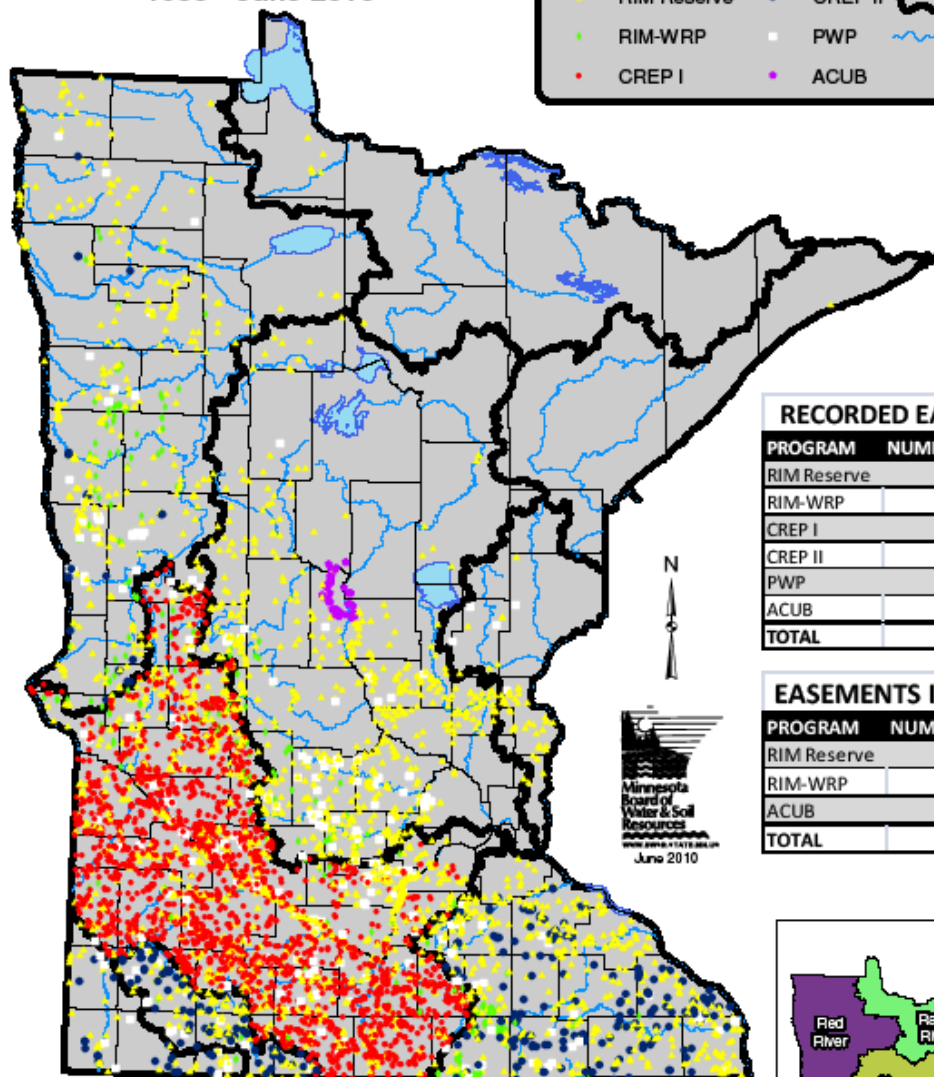
*5,590
easements
221,999
acres*

Minnesota's State-Funded Conservation Easements

1986 - June 2010

State Easement Programs

- RIM Reserve
- RIM-WRP
- CREP I
- CREP II
- PWP
- ACUB
-  River Basins
-  Major Rivers



RECORDED EASEMENTS

PROGRAM	NUMBER	ACRES
RIM Reserve	1,845	58,254
RIM-WRP	167	13,434
CREP I	2,481	100,005
CREP II	277	7,095
PWP	299	11,413
ACUB	43	7,024
TOTAL	5,112	197,225

EASEMENTS IN PROCESS

PROGRAM	NUMBER	ACRES
RIM Reserve	144	2,448
RIM-WRP	183	17,498
ACUB	7	1,319
TOTAL	334	21,265

RIM Reserve: Minnesota's RIM easement program removes lands from agricultural production to benefit water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

RIM-WRP: Minnesota's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program combined with federal Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

CREP I: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), combines RIM Reserve with the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Easements must be in the Minnesota River basin.

CREP II: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), combines RIM Reserve with the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Easements must be in the Red, Missouri, or Lower Mississippi River basins.

PWP: RIM Reserve Permanent Wetland Preserves (PWP) for existing wetlands at high risk of being drained or filled.

ACUB: Army Compatible Use Buffers is a partnership with the US Army to acquire easements that provide for land conservation and prohibit development of critical open areas near Camp Ripley.



‘to protect soil and water quality and support fish and wildlife habitat’

RIM’s focus has been riparian and wetland restoration easements since 1992 when Gov. Carlson issued his challenge to clean up the MN River, as a result . . .

1,600 wetland restoration easements on 88,000 acres



9.3.2002

2,100 riparian easements on 63,000 acres



What IS a Conservation Easement?

A voluntary agreement between a landowner and qualifying private or governmental organization that sets forth specific restrictions on development and land use.

Acquiring an easement is a purchase of some of the legal rights to the property and uses the same process as a fee title sale of the land.

In MN, the legal basis for state easements as a conservation tool is provided for in Chapter 84C of the Minnesota Statutes.

An Easement is a Legal Document

It takes the form of a binding contract that is filed in the public records (County Recorder) of the county in which the land is located.

The landowner who establishes the easement and all future owners of the property are legally obligated to abide by its terms.

The State serves as permanent guardian for the land's conservation values, monitoring the property regularly to assure that easement terms are upheld, and can enforce via the courts.

Key Aspects of Conservation Easements

Landowner retains title to property and all associated rights and obligations of ownership aside from those that are restricted and transferred to the State in the easement.

Property retains its private status; an easement DOES NOT require that land be accessible to the public.

Runs with the title to the land; all future owners are bound by it's terms.

A new easement does not affect previously recorded documents.

May affect property's resale value.

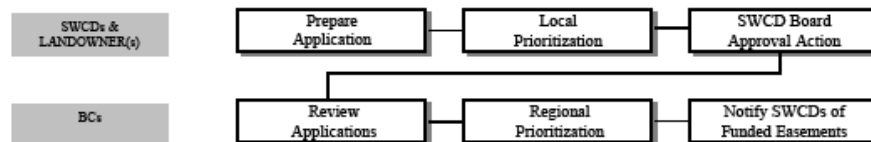
May, or may not, lower property tax assessments.

Easement Processing

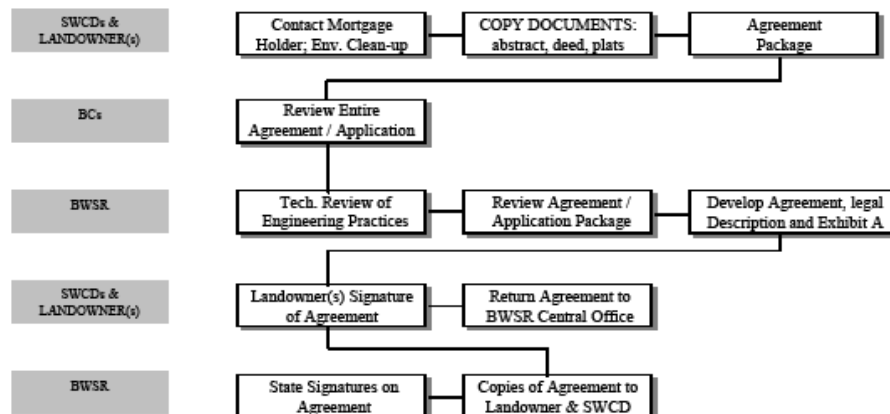
- Three distinct stages:
 - Application
 - Agreement
 - Easement

CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION FLOWCHART

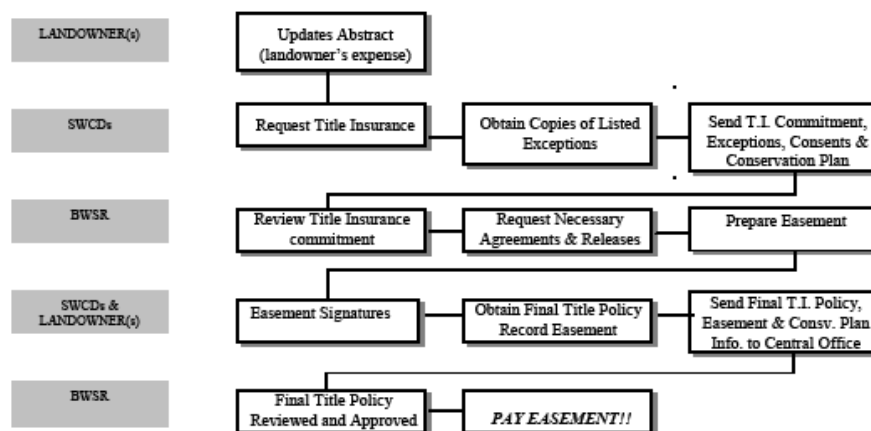
Application Stage



Agreement Stage



Easement Stage



Application Phase



The SWCD Checklist

An invaluable reference source of items needed and steps to take throughout the easement acquisition process.

Available at ~

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/index.html>

SWCD CHECKLIST
Conservation Easement Acquisition
Part I

FOR CREP APPLICATIONS, SUBMIT ALL ITEMS LISTED IN BOTH THE “APPLICATION PACKAGE” BOX AND THE “AGREEMENT PACKAGE” BOX. USE THE CREP II CALC SHEET AND CEPPW AVAILABLE ON BWSR’S WEBSITE. SUBMIT AS ONE PACKAGE TO YOUR BC.

Application Package		
____ Application	____ CEFW OR	____ Wetland Restoration Info form*
____ Aerial Photos	____ CREP II Calc Sheet	____ Courthouse Search*
____ Easement Area Assessment	AND CEPPW	____ Land Use & Soils*
*submit when applicable		

Application Stage

- 1) Date _____ **Application package completed**
- 2) Date _____ **Local prioritization completed**
Screening Committee action (optional) _____ SWCD Board Action _____
Approved by SWCD Board _____ Not approved by SWCD Board _____
If the SWCD Board does not approve the application, stop here. Owner notified of the action on _____
(date)
- 3) Date _____ **Mail to BWSR Board Conservationist (BC) for regional prioritization and funding approval**
- 4) Date _____ **BC notification of funding status**
Approved by BC for funding _____ Not approved by BC for funding _____
If the BC does not fund the application stop here. Owner notified of the action on _____
(date)

IF APPLICATION APPROVED, PROCEED TO AGREEMENT STAGE BELOW.

Agreement Package	
____ Agreement Information Form	____ Copy of Government Lot Maps*
____ Copy of the Deed	____ Notification for Federal Contract Release*
____ Copy of the Abstract Legal Description	____ Other documents as specifically requested
*submit when applicable	

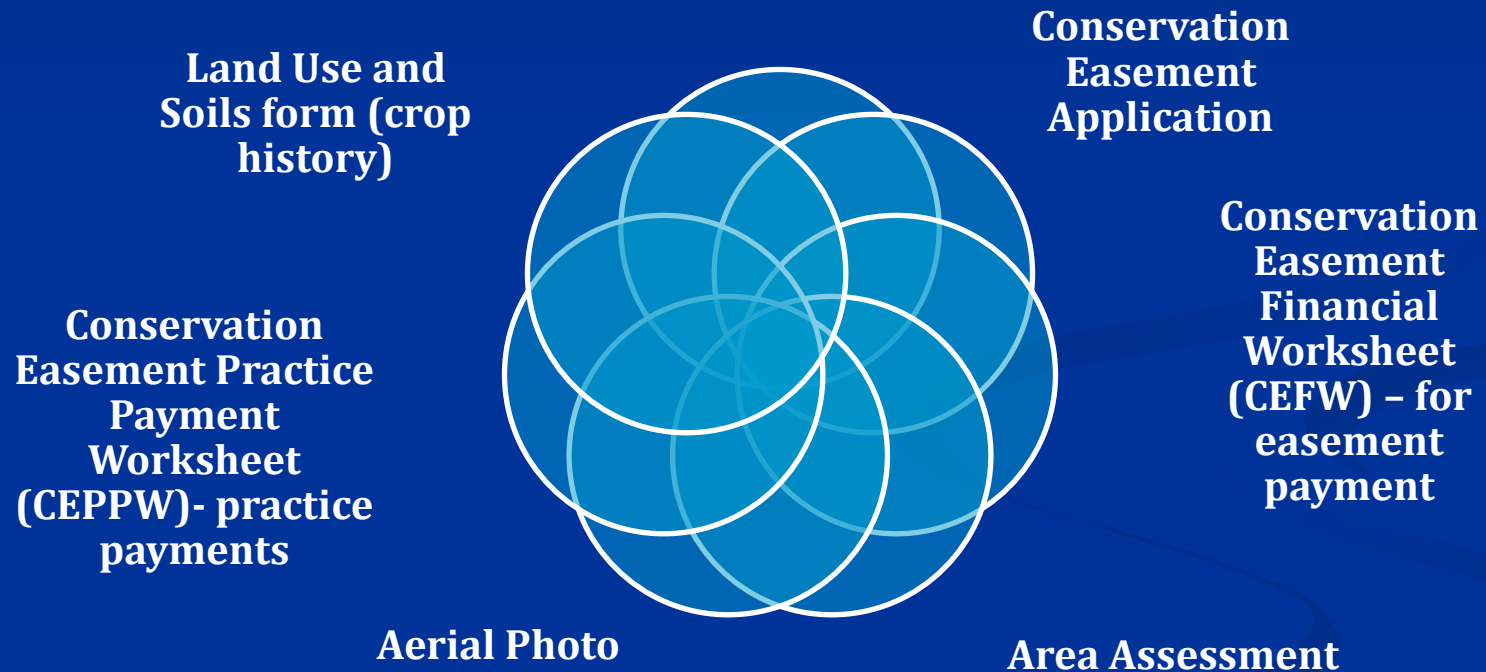
Agreement Stage

- 5) Date _____ **Agreement Package completed (contains all components listed above)**
- 6) Date _____ **Mailed Agreement Package and other pertinent documents to BC**
- 7) Date _____ **Agreement documents received from the BWSR central office.**
- 8) Date _____ **Review for correct grantor names (e.g. spelling), payment terms and amounts, etc.**
- 9) Date _____ **Obtain notarized signatures of grantors**
- 10) Date _____ **Signed agreement documents sent to BWSR central office, via certified mail**
- 11) Date _____ **One fully executed agreement document received from BWSR central office.**

(One fully executed agreement document sent directly to landowner by BWSR central office with letter reminding landowner to update their abstract.)

The Application Package

Refer to your SWCD Checklist!!



All forms Available at ~ <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/index.html>

Aerial Photo

Show the following:

- **Boundaries of proposed easement area.**
- **River, streams, ditches, lakes, etc.
including name/number designation.**
- **Dimension and distance information;
especially important when enrolling
parts of existing crop fields.**

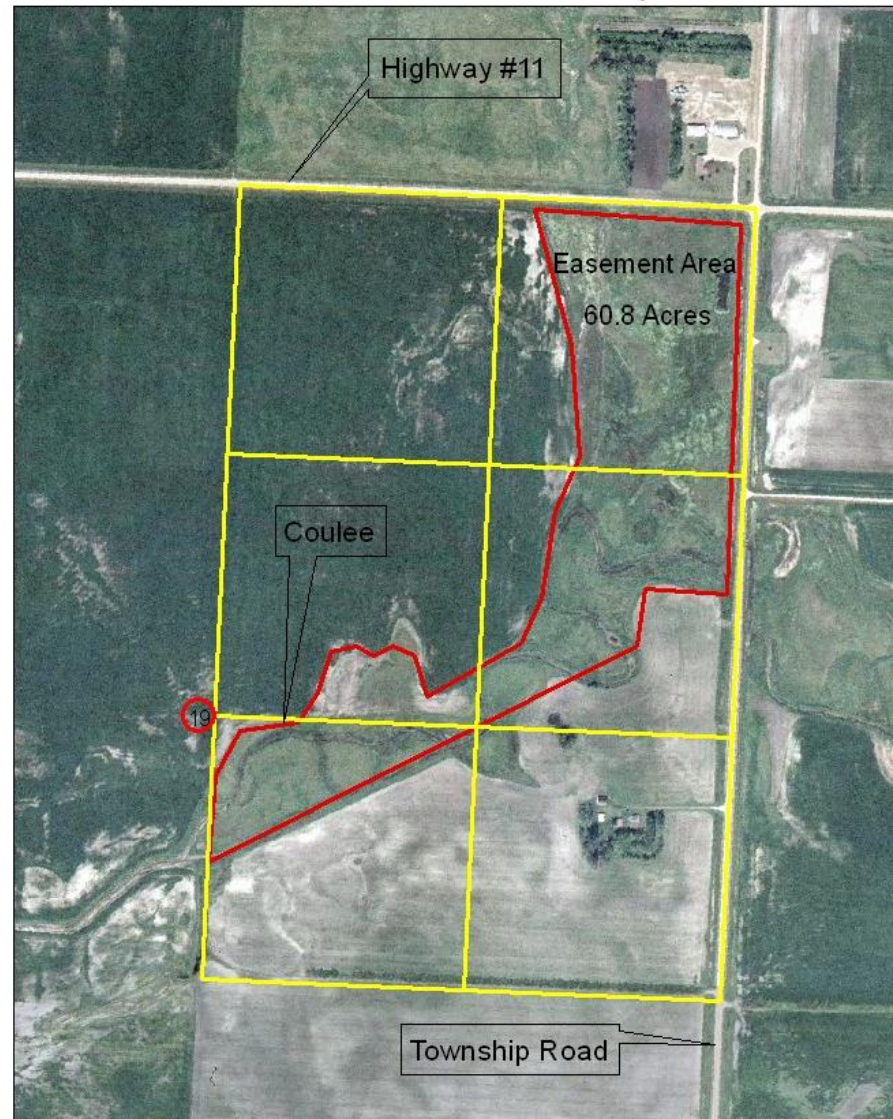
Aerial Photo

- Section corners/center.
- All known utilities.
- Building sites.
- ID info for existing or proposed easements on adjoining properties.
- Other pertinent info.
- Should also submit aerial photo shape files electronically to BWSR, St. Paul. If you chose this option, submit a paper copy with the application package you submit. Attach *.shp, *.shx and *.dbf files to electronic files.

Landowner Name: Les Scaup
Section 19
Township 159 Range 47

Date:
Prepared By:
Kittson County

Easement Boundary



Legend

- Section_Lines
- Easement Boundary

0 330 660 1,320 Feet



The Agreement Package

Refer to your SWCD Checklist!!

Agreement Information Form

Copy of the deed

Other items as required -items to clarify ownership, such as:
corporation or partnership docs
government lot maps and/or plat maps
death certificates
divorce decree, etc.

Agreement Information Form

- Stipulates who is to receive payment for easements and practices.
- Like Kind Land Exchanges
- Co-payees to be listed on check . State does not do assignment to pay contractors directly for practice payment reimbursements like USDA.

Agreement Stage

The Agreement for Conservation Easement

- creates a legal contract between the landowner and the state
- discloses the terms of the easement
- identifies the parties involved, ownership, easement boundary, legal description, payment info, land title responsibilities
- allows the landowner to crop or graze the area during the easement acquisition process
- enables the state to encumber the funds required

The Agreement for Easement

BWSR easement staff prepares the state's agreement for RIM using all of the components included in the Application/Agreement package.



Agreement is sent (1 copy) to the SWCD for the landowner(s) signature.



SWCD reviews the agreements for accuracy of grantor and payment information, legal description and Exhibit A before meeting with the landowner to sign.



The agreement is reviewed in detail with the landowner – this is a legal binding document.

The Agreement

The SWCD sends signed agreement back to BWSR St. Paul for the state's signature.

One fully executed document is sent to the landowner, and a copy to the SWCD along with a letter explaining the next steps.

DO NOT RECORD THE AGREEMENT!!!!

What's a Title Commitment?

And How Do I Get One??



Title Insurance – Don't Be Afraid!

Three very important resources.....

- Easement Stage – (Handbook Chapter)
- Title Insurance Procedures – quick reference guide for you.
- Specimen Title Insurance Policy – you and your title agent should both have a copy.

Available at ~ <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/index.html>
(under the Handbook Chapters heading)

➤ A title commitment is a document issued by a title agent that outlines the agent's intent to issue a final title **policy** and what the policy will cover.

Obtain a title commitment by providing the title agent of your choice with:

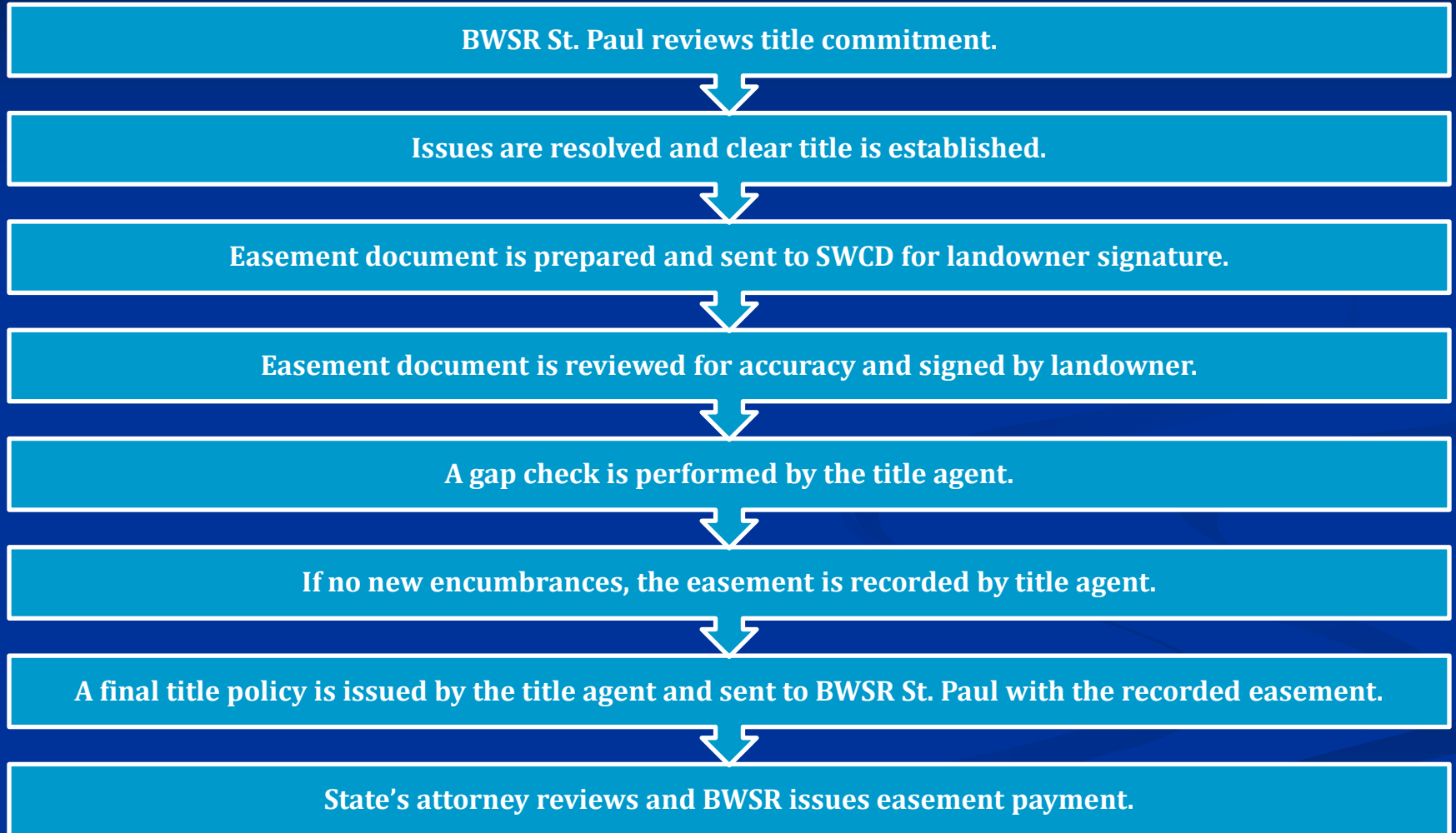
- *Title Insurance Request form*
- copy of the signed RIM Agreement
- an updated abstract (provided by the landowner)

❖ Helps to bring *Title Ins. Specimen Policy* and *Title Insurance Procedures* guide if working with new title agent

Reimbursement for Title Expenses

- The state will reimburse the SWCD for expenses incurred relating to the purchase of the title insurance policy. (Use the Reimbursement Request form)
- Updating of the abstract is not included in the above, this cost is responsibility of the landowner.

The Easement Phase



Conservation Plans for RIM

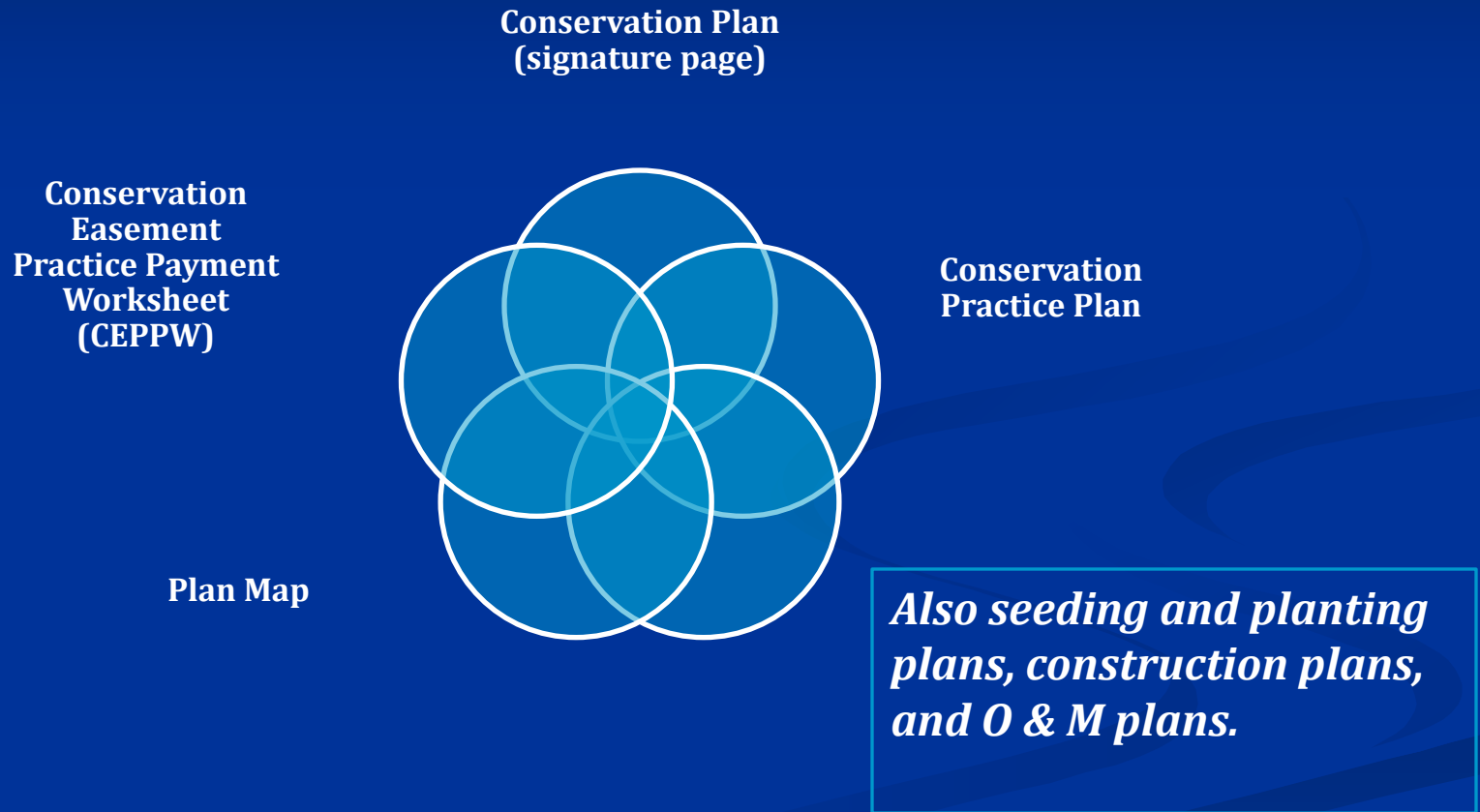
RIM Reserve law requires all areas of an easement to be established and maintained in permanent native vegetation or water.

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/RIMpracticespecs.pdf>

CONSERVATION PRACTICE CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS

- RR-1a Introduced Grasses/Legumes To Be Established
- RR-1b Introduced Grasses/Legumes Already Established
- RR-2a Native Grasses To Be Established
- RR-2b Native Grasses Already Established
- RR-3a Tree and/or Shrub Planting To Be Established
- RR-3b Tree and/or Shrub Planting Already Established
- RR-4a Field Windbreak To Be Established
- RR-4b Field Windbreak Already Established
- RR-8 Wetland Restoration
- RR-11 Highway Windbreak
- RR-12 Wetland Creation
- RR-13 Existing Wetland
- RR-14 Existing Watercourse/Ditch
- RR-FP Wildlife Food Plot

Conservation Plan consists of:



CONSERVATION PLAN FOR STATE OF MINNESOTA CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation Easement I.D.:	SWCD/County:	Easement Acres:	
Principal Land Owner Name:		Easement Duration: <input type="checkbox"/> Perpetual <input type="checkbox"/> Limited (exp. date:)	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:

This Conservation Plan is part of the Conservation Easement which is recorded on the land title. Any willful action not in compliance with this Conservation Plan is a direct violation of the Conservation Easement which is enforceable by State Law.

The Grantors, all successors, assigns, and heirs, as identified in the Conservation Easement and herein collectively referred to as "Landowners", are required to establish and maintain the conservation practices described in this Conservation Plan for the duration of the Conservation Easement. The Landowners shall establish all conservation practices described in this Conservation Plan in accordance with the easement program Conservation Practice Specifications and within the schedule provided in the attached Conservation Practice Plan.

The Landowners shall appoint a "Principal Landowner" to serve as the primary contact for implementing and distributing information pertaining to the conservation practices identified in this Conservation Plan.

The local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) will provide the Principal Landowner with the following information which is considered as "attachments" to this Conservation Plan.

- A) Conservation Practice Plan
- B) Conservation Plan Map
- C) Construction Plans (if necessary)
- D) Seeding/ Planting Plans (if necessary)
- E) Operation and Maintenance Requirements
- F) Supplementary Information (as needed):

The State will reimburse the landowner for the establishment of the conservation practices identified in the Conservation Plan documents up to the payment limits provided in Minnesota Statutes section 103F.515. A State Cost-Share Voucher certifying completion of the practice establishment is required from the SWCD before any eligible cost-share payments can be made by the State. No payments for establishing conservation practices will be made until the Conservation Easement is recorded and accepted by the state.

I hereby agree to and acknowledge my obligations associated with this Conservation Plan.

(Principal Landowner)

(Date)

(Authorized SWCD Representative)

(Date)

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PLAN

Example 1

Conservation Easement I.D.:	Principal Landowner Name:
Prepared By:	Date Prepared:

PRACTICE AREA (one per line)	PRACTICE AREA SIZE (acres)	CONSERVATION PRACTICE CODE TYPE		PLANNED YEAR OF PRACTICE INSTALLATION	
		PRIMARY	SUPPORTING	PRIMARY	SUPPORTING
1	55.2	RR-2a	---	2009	---
2	36.5	RR-2a	---	2009	---
3	6.7	RR-2a	---	2009	---
4	1.4	RR-2b	---	---	---
5	2.2	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
6	0.4	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
7	0.5	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
8	2.9	RR-8	---	2009	---
9	13.8	RR-8	---	2009	---
10	9.8	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
11	1.0	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
12	0.6	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
13	0.7	RR-8	RR-2a	2009	2009
14	4.2	RR-2b	---	---	---
15	5.4	RR-13	---	---	---
16	3.5	RR-13	---	---	---
17	0.9	RR-13	---	---	---

145.7

= Total Easement Acres

CONSERVATION PRACTICE CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS

RR-1a Introduced Grasses/Legumes To Be Established
 RR-1b Introduced Grasses/Legumes Already Established
 RR-2a Native Grasses To Be Established
 RR-2b Native Grasses Already Established
 RR-3a Tree and/or Shrub Planting To Be Established
 RR-3b Tree and/or Shrub Planting Already Established
 RR-4a Field Windbreak To Be Established
 RR-4b Field Windbreak Already Established

RR-5 Diversion
 RR-6 Erosion Control Structure
 RR-7 Grass Waterway
 RR-8 Wetland Restoration
 RR-11 Highway Windbreak
 RR-12 Wetland Creation
 RR-13 Existing Wetland
 RR-14 Existing Watercourse/Ditch
 RR-FP Wildlife Food Plot

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PRACTICE PAYMENT WORKSHEET (CEPPW)

Easement ID No.:	Landowner Name:	Prepared By:	Date Prepared:
------------------	-----------------	--------------	----------------

Example 1

PRACTICE CODE & SUBCODE		PRACTICE AREA(s)	PRACTICE ACRES			PRACTICE DOLLARS	
			Primary	Supporting	Total	Max. Allowed Per Acre ¹	Max. Available
RR-1	Introduced Grasses	a. To Be Established				\$150	
		b. Already Established					
RR-2	Native Grasses	a. To Be Established	1,2,3,5,6,7,10,11,12,13	98.4	113.6	\$300	\$34,080
		b. Already Established	4	1.4	1.4		
RR-3	Tress/Shrubs	a. To Be Established				\$400	
		b. Already Established	14	4.2	4.2		
RR-4	Field Windbreak	a. To Be Established				\$400	
		b. Already Established					
RR-5	Diversion						
RR-6	Erosion Control Structure						
RR-7	Grass Waterway						
RR-8	Wetland Restoration		5 - 13	31.9	31.9	\$600	\$19,140
RR-11	Highway Windbreak					\$400	
RR-12	Wetland Creation						
RR-13	Existing Wetland		15 - 17	9.8	9.8		
RR-14	Existing Watercourse/Ditch						
RR-FP	Wildlife Food Plot						

145.7 = TOTAL EASEMENT ACRES

¹ The dollar values in this column represent the maximum amount payable per acre that will be allowed for the identified practice. In no case will payments be made that are in excess of actual costs, less other partner contributions. Custom farm rate data will be taken in to consideration when reviewing total amounts submitted for reimbursement.

WRP/RIM Conservation Plan Map
WRP 66-6322-6-6064 RIM 61-03-07-02
SW 1/4 S.32 T123N R37W Gilchrist Twp.
Pope County, MN
145.7 Acres

Date: 10/20/2008

GLENWOOD SERVICE CENTER

Agency: USDA-NRCS





Assisted By: Mark Norton, DU

District: POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Legend

-  1-4, 643/RR2 - Tall Grass Prairie - 99.8 ac.
-  5-13, 657/RR8 - Wetland Restoration - 31.9 ac.
-  14, 645/RR3 - Native Trees and Shrubs - 4.2 ac.
-  15-17, 644/RR13 - Existing Wetland - 9.8 ac.

-  WRP/RIM Boundary
-  Power Box
-  SW Corner S.32
-  Sections

0 315 630 1,260 1,890 2,520 Feet



Important Points on Plans

- For each practice area identified, a primary practice must be designated. This is the permanent practice cover expected to exist on the easement in the long-term.
- Some primary practices will also require the establishment of a supporting practice,

example: RR-2a supporting, RR-8 primary

RIM Reserve Conservation Easements

- **Monitoring**
- **Management**
- **Enforcement**



Stake Easement Boundaries

- **Very important where cropland is adjacent!**
- **Non-linear boundaries**
- **Stakes and fence posts are a reimbursed expense**

SWCD Roles with Long-Term Management on Easements

- Perform site inspections
- Notify BWSR of ownership changes on easement lands (Ownership Change Form)
- Work with landowners on:
 - weed control
 - habitat improvement
 - violations
 - conservation plan changes, etc.

Inspection Schedule

- Every year for 5 years after recording
- Every 3rd year thereafter
- Use site inspection form and make sure landowner gets a copy!!

Inspections Are Important!

- **Meet with landowner or operator if possible**
- **Provide guidance on issues that need attention**

Weed Control is Important!

- RIM does cost-share on spraying and clipping up to program maximums during the practice establishment period (2-3 years).
- After the establishment period, weed control is the landowner's responsibility.
- Cost-share beyond the establishment period or above program maximums must be requested by the landowner (Practice Implementation Request Form).

~ Not Allowed ~

- Permanent cabin, home or any other storage facility
- Cell towers
- Wind generators
- Driveways
- Wells, septic systems
- Dumping of any solid wastes
- Timber harvest without an approved plan
- Motocross tracks
- Big game shooting preserves

(The above list is not to be considered all inclusive)

Examples of Violations







~ Allowed ~

Activities that do not destroy the cover:

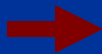
- **Deer stands and hunting blinds**
- **Camping**
- **Limited mowing of trails for camping / hunting access**
- **Motorized vehicles only if they do not destroy cover or cause erosion**
- **Horseback riding**

Be reasonable and use common sense!!

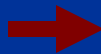
You find a violation ... then what?

- Document the violation on the site inspection form and contact the landowner (Sending a letter is not enough).
- If landowner does not fix the problem, SWCD initiates *corrective action transmittal* (form found in handbook)

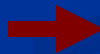
SWCD



BWSR BC



BWSR
Board



Attorney
General

Vegetative Management

... activities are allowed and encouraged

- Habitat management policy allows activities intended to improve the cover

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/VegMgmtPolicy.pdf>

- Prescribed burns, grazing, haying, light disking, and timber harvest all are allowed if they are part of an approved management plan.
- 2008 bonding legislation provides an opportunity to acquire funding to enhance and restore native species on existing easements(\$1.25 M). Must include planting of additional native species. Request these funds with the Practice Implementation Request form. **\$600,000 still available!**

RIM Services Grants

- Currently \$345,000 \approx \$70 / easement from general fund revenues

In addition:

- BWSR has been reimbursing SWCDs at \$2,000 per easement for new program initiatives (RIM-WRP, SE Flood, RRVRI)
- Up to \$3,500 per easement for technical assistance related to wetland restorations (e-mail sent 7-27-10)

Easement Alterations

BWSR has authority to alter or terminate easements – MS 103F.535 subd.5 – if it determines that the “public interest and general welfare are better served” by the alteration or release.

How does BWSR define this *public interest*?

- Safety issues
- Public infrastructure projects

Easement Alteration Policy

Adopted by BWSR June 24, 2006

[http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/
easement_alteration_policy.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/easement_alteration_policy.pdf)

Public Projects

- \$500 processing fee
- 2 X current ATAMV payment rate for released acres

Easement Alteration Policy

Private landowner requests

- Minimum 2:1 replacement acres
- \$500 processing fee
- Board will not approve if alteration will result in building or development of any kind.

Current Program Opportunities

Southern MN Flood Disaster Response

- **\$10.0M for RIM Reserve easements**
- **29 counties eligible**

Wellhead Protection Easements

**\$2.0M now available from CWF in DWSMA,
eligible wellhead areas being expanded.**

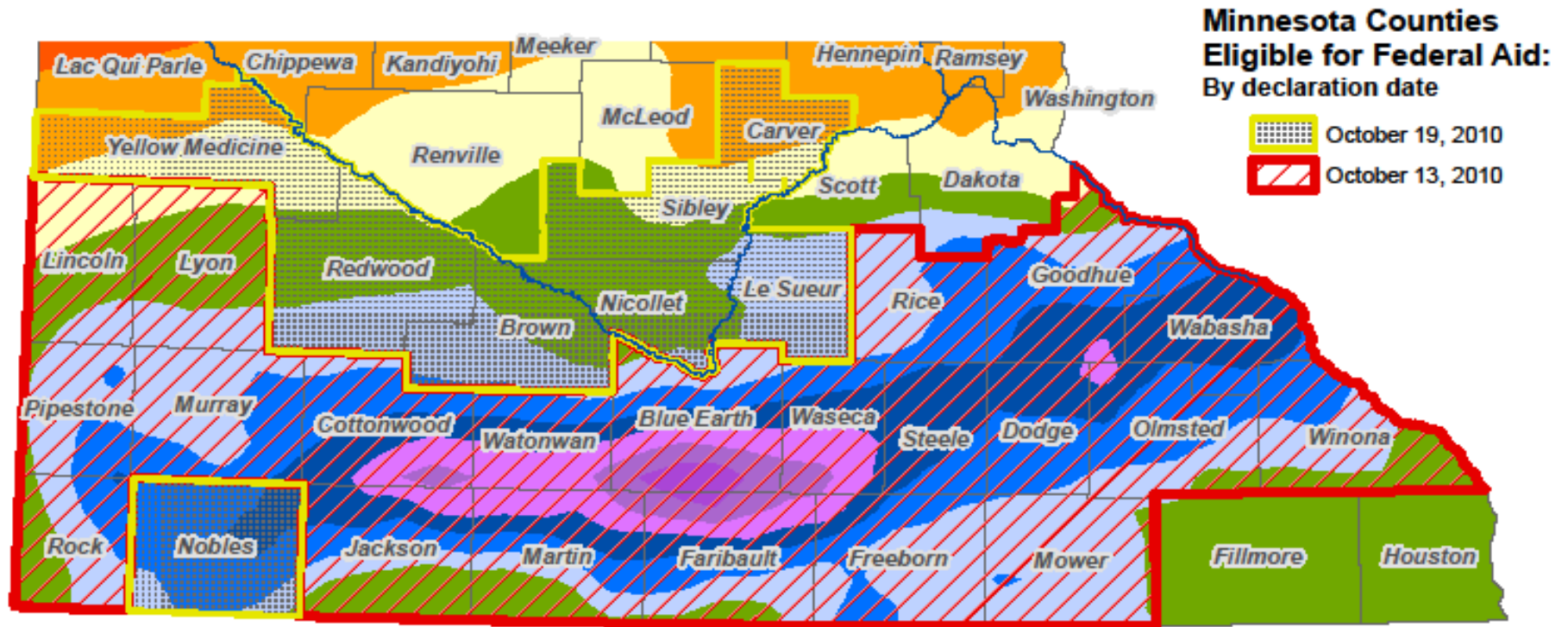
Flood Disaster Response - \$10 M

Riparian areas and wetland restorations are the eligible land types – focus will be to restore floodplains, riparian buffers and wetlands.

- **RIM-WRP Partnership for restorations**
- **‘straight’ RIM Reserve for riparian floodplains and buffers**

Details on sign-up coming soon!

Federal Disaster Declaration FEMA-1941-DR



Rainfall September 22-23, 2010

Inches

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



October 2010

Wellhead Protection Easements - CWF

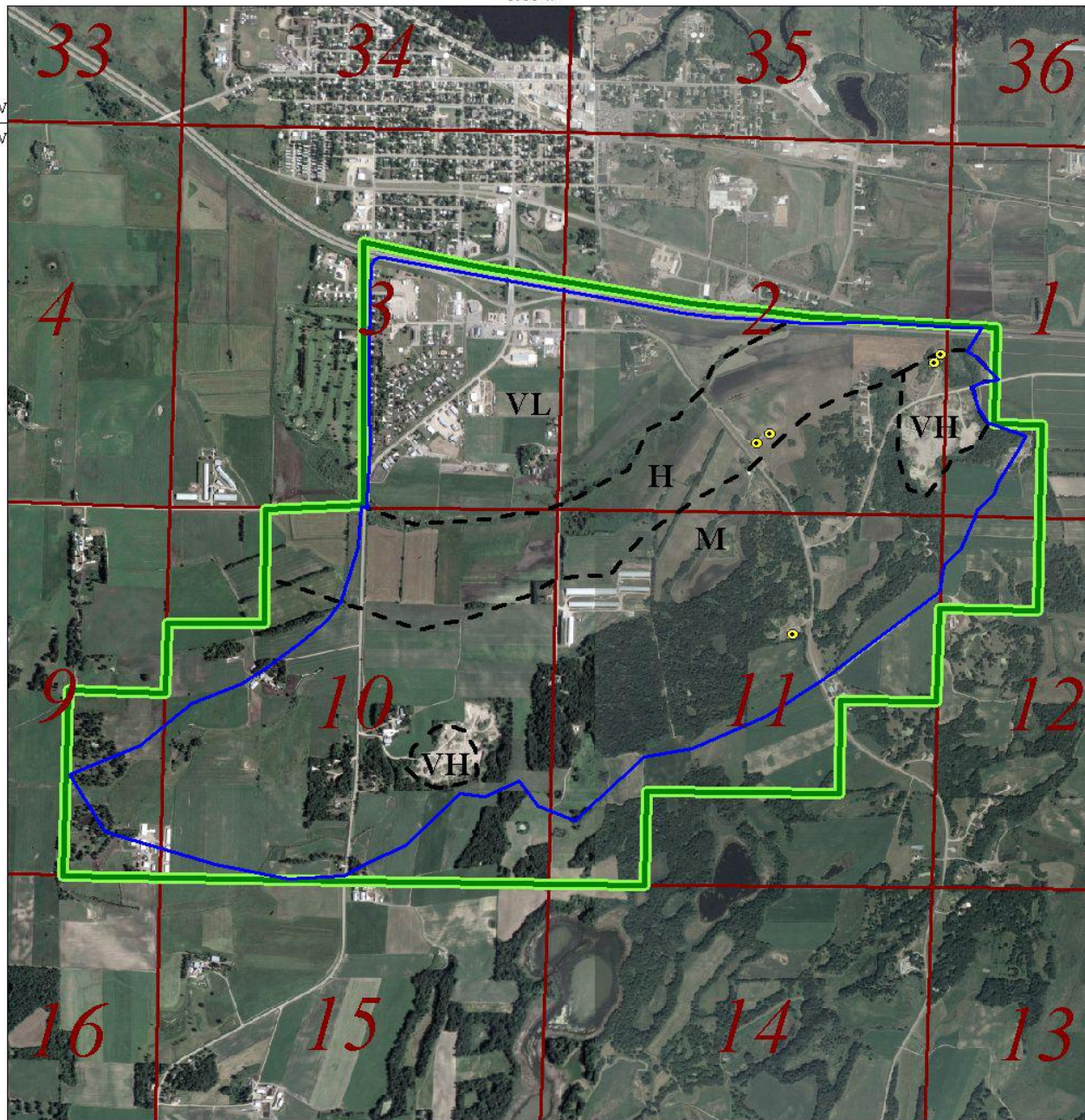
Statute requirements/conditions

Permanent easements

Lands in wellhead protection areas mapped as high or very high vulnerability by the MN Dept. of Health.

Eligible wellhead areas have been expanded as recommended by MDH, MDA, and MRWSA. *Maps of eligible project areas will be provided soon.*

Payment Rates =100% AATV for cropland, 60% for non-crop



Melrose

Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) MN-00087 10 year Time of Travel

Public Water Supply Well

- Primary
- Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)
- DWSMA
- - - DWSMA Vulnerability Boundary

VH = Very High Vulnerability
H = High Vulnerability
M = Moderate Vulnerability
VL = Very Low Vulnerability

0.4 0 0.4 Miles



Approved April 21, 2001

Sign-up Criteria for CWF Buffers and Wellhead Easements

All existing RIM statute and rules apply:

- One year ownership.
- Landowner – an individual or entity that is not prohibited from owning ag land under MS 500.24 (Corporate farm law). Corporations need Dept. of Ag certification.
- Use existing RIM forms to take applications from landowners.
<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/index.html>
- Continuous sign up, so apps. don't need to be ranked or prioritized locally by the SWCD.

Sign-up Criteria (cont.)

- **Buffer width measured from top of bank or water's edge. Non-crop fringe must be included in easement.**
- **Priority to extend new or existing CRP contracts.**
- **Priority on cropland areas.**
- **For wellhead easements, a majority >50% must be in the high or very high vulnerability zone.**

RIM Application Package

Conservation Easement Application form

Area Assessment form

Land Use and Soils form (Just crop history portion of form)

Air photo with easement area identified

Conservation Easement Financial Worksheet
(for easement payments)

Conservation Easement Practice Payment Worksheet (CEPPW)

Agreement Information Form

Landowners deed(s) to property

Other Possibilities in 2011

RIM-WRP Wetland Restoration Partnership

L-SOHC - \$13.0M proposed for 2011

Riparian Buffer Easements

\$5.0 M proposed for 2011 (CWF)

Other Possibilities – cont.

MN Buffers for Wildlife and Water

L-SOHC - \$2.2 M proposed for 2011. PF initiative to extend CWF buffers beyond 100 ft. out to 200 ft. in Prairie Pothole region

Shallow Lake Shoreland Protection: Wild Rice Lakes

L-SOHC - \$1.9 M proposed for 2011 . Eight Counties (Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, St. Louis, Wadena)

RIM - WRP Partnership

Landowners voluntarily enroll in a:

- 30-year federal WRP easement and a
- Perpetual state RIM Reserve easement

***Lengthy process so important to manage
landowner expectations!!***

RIM-WRP Partnership

Local



State



Federal



before.....



NRCS

BWSR

SWCDs

after!



Ducks Unlimited

***MN Waterfowl
Association***

Landowners!

before.....



after!



RIM-WRP Partnership

- ✓ *\$1.4 federal leveraged for every \$1 state*
- ✓ *\$14.2M of RIM with \$19.1M of WRP restored wetlands and adjacent grasslands on 9,775 acres in 2008*
- ✓ *Minnesota received almost 20% of the nation's WRP funds in 2008*
- ✓ *\$15M in USDA funds will be available per year, if state dollars for RIM are available*



Riparian Buffer Easements - CWF

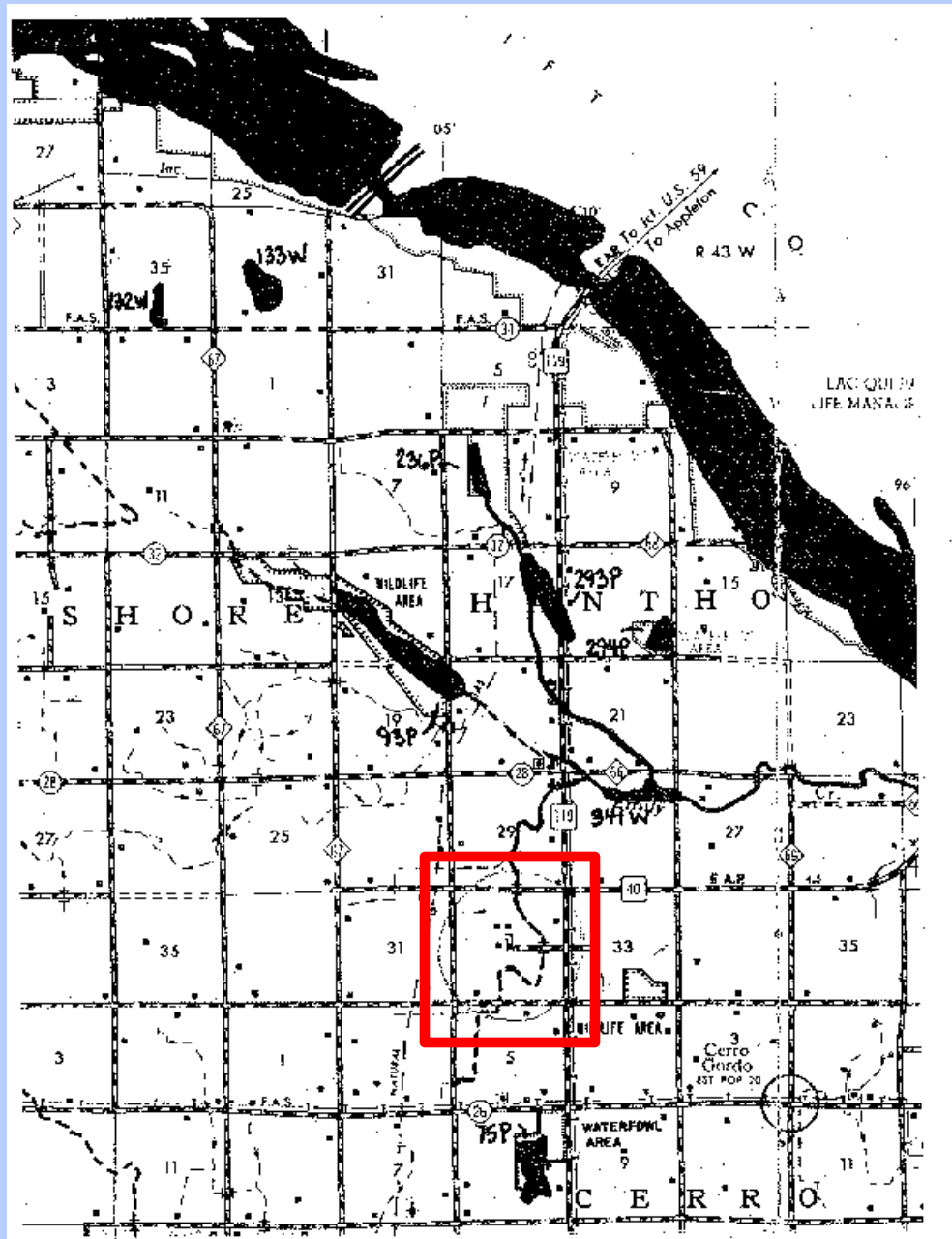
Statute requirements/conditions

Permanent easements

**Minimum 50 feet
Maximum of 100 feet**

**Adjacent to public waters, streams, ditches and lakes (excludes wetlands).
*Streams ID'd as solid blue lines, ditches as dashed line, and basins marked with a P on the DNR PWI***

Payment Rates =100% AATV for cropland, 60% for non-crop



PWI MAP
LAQ QUI
PARLE
COUNTY

Landowner Name:
Section 32
Township 119 Range 43
Total Easement Acres: 15.5

Date:
Prepared By:
Lac Qui Parle

Easement Boundary



Legend

- Easement Boundary
- Section_Lines

0 330 660 1,320 Feet

Native Vegetation Requirements

(2009 Legislation) “To the extent possible, any person conducting a restoration with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination.”

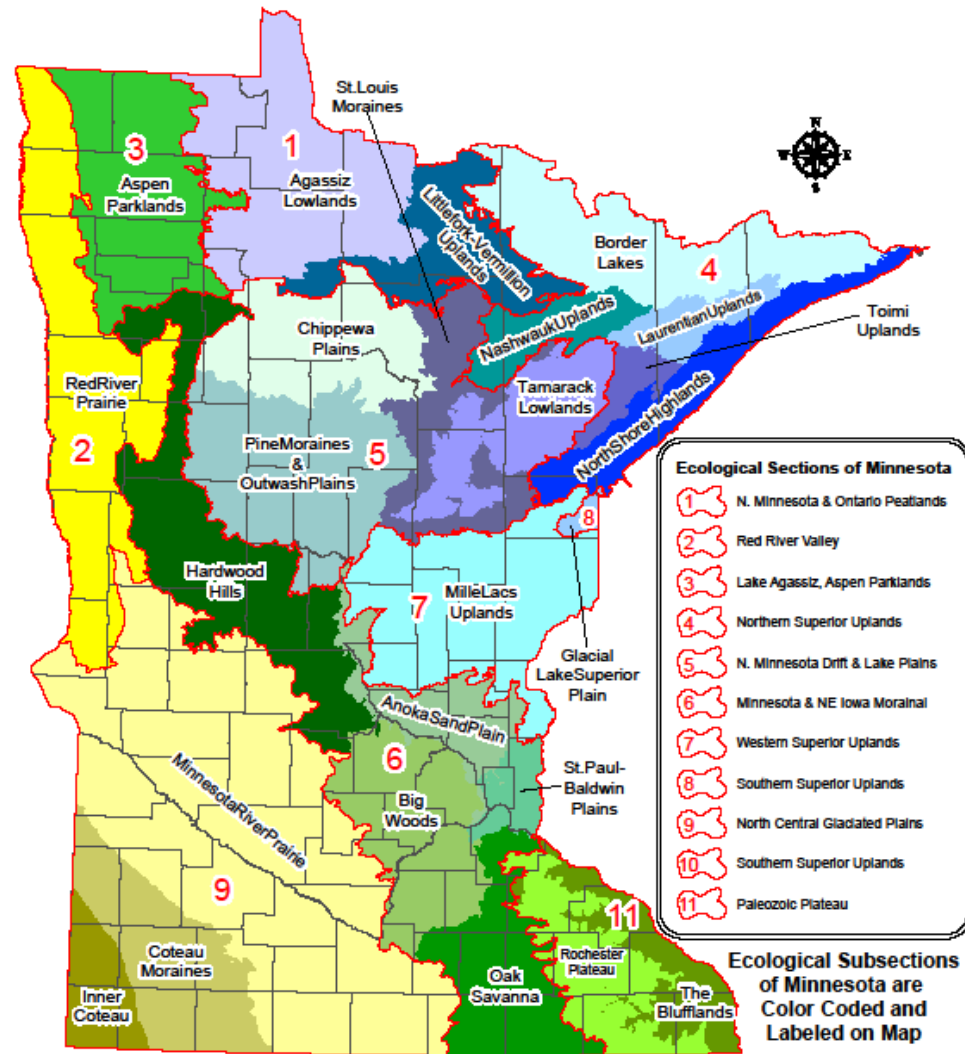
What does this mean?

- Minimum 20 species mix using local eco-type seed.
- Seed should come from same eco-region when possible (map on BWSR website) and within 150 miles.
- Yellow tag seed (source identified thru the MN Crop Improvement Association) when available.
- NRCS Practice 643 'Restoration and Mgt. of Declining Habitats' or BWSR seed mixes meet the intent of this legislative requirement.

'Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines – 12-23-2009'

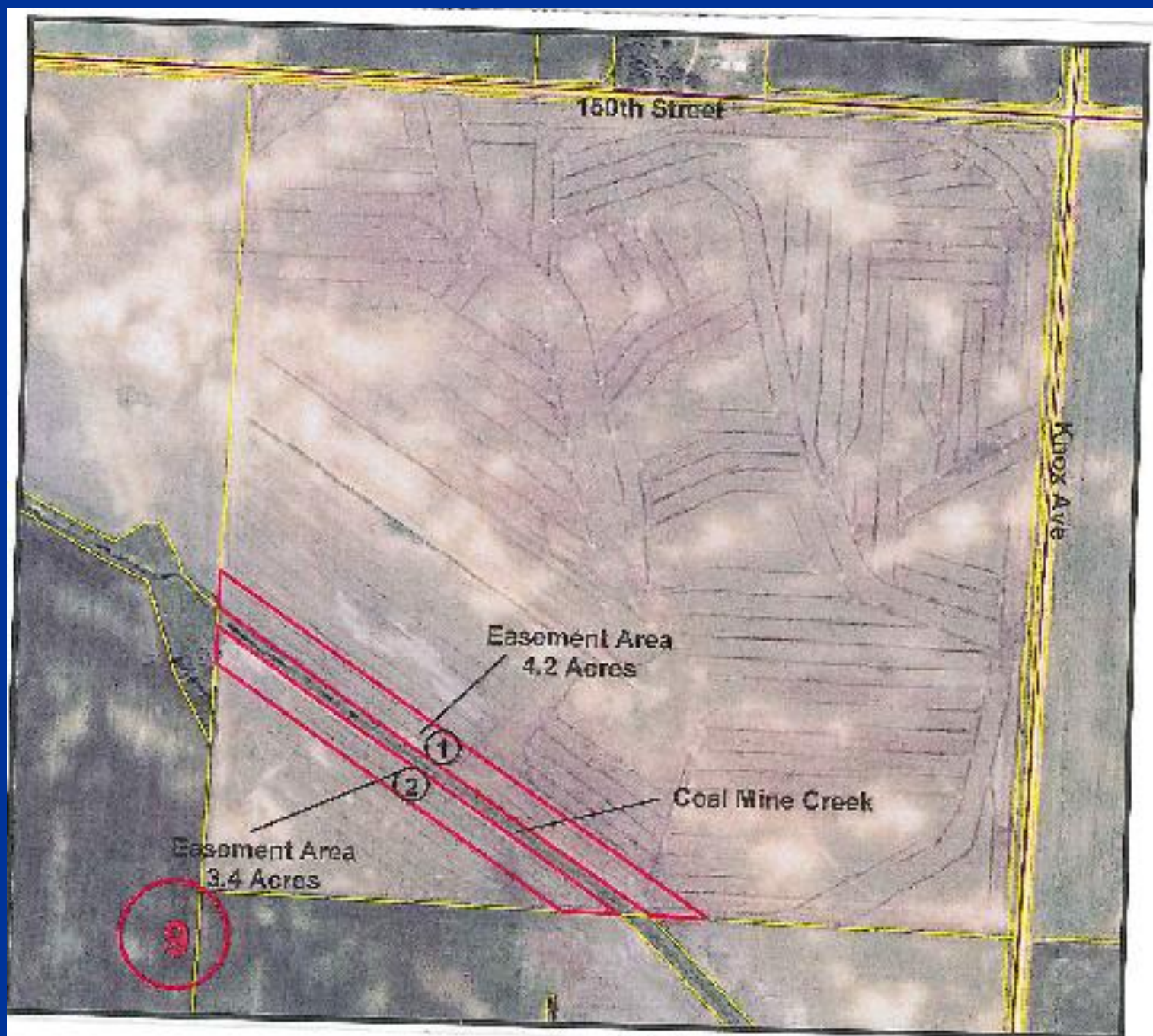
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/native_vegetation/seeding_guidelines.pdf

Minnesota Ecological Sections and Subsections



0 50 100 150 Miles





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A mallard duck is captured in mid-flight over a body of water. The duck's wings are spread wide, showing a mix of grey, white, and black feathers. Its head is turned to the right, revealing a greenish-blue cap and a yellow beak. Its red webbed feet are visible below its body. The background is a soft-focus view of water and reeds.

*RIM Reserve easements, must
continue to make wildlife habitat
and clean water a priority!*

Thanks for your time.